

CHRISTMAS MORNING PRAYER
From Christmas to Epiphany

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Introductory Responses

Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God,
you were before time began
and came into the world to save us.
Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness;
you shine with the Father's love
and illumine the whole universe.
Blessed are you, Son of Mary;
born a child, you shared our humanity.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the voices of heaven
we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all creatures on earth
we sing and dance at Christ's birth.
Praise and honour and glory to you, O Lord most high.

Morning Prayer continues with the Psalm of the Day.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Psalm

A Psalm from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is said or sung.

Morning Prayer continues with the Reading.

The Reading

A Reading from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is read. After a period of silent reflection one of the following is said.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

or

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

or

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Morning Prayer continues with the Responsory or the Canticle or both. If two Readings are read, then the Responsory follows the first Reading and the Canticle the second.

The Responsory

Your salvation, O God, is near to those who fear you:
your glory shall dwell in our land.

**Your salvation, O God, is near to those who fear you:
your glory shall dwell in our land.**

I will listen to what you are saying, O Lord God,
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their heart to you.

Your glory shall dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Your glory shall dwell in our land.

Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Your glory shall dwell in our land.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

**Your salvation, O God, is near to those who fear you:
your glory shall dwell in our land.**

Morning Prayer continues with [the Second Reading or] the Canticle or an Affirmation of Faith.

The Canticle

'The Song of Zechariah' or one of the seasonal canticles, 'A Song of the Messiah' or 'A Song of God's Chosen One', may be said or sung.

The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1.68-79)

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, *
you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, *
born of the house of your servant David.
Through your holy prophets, *
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us, *
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. ⁱ

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

or

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Morning Prayer continues with an Affirmation of Faith or the Litany.

A Song of the Messiah (Isaiah 9.2, 3b, 4a, 6, 7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; *
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
upon them the light has dawned.
You have increased their joy and given them great gladness; *
they rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest.
For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them; *
the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders.
For to us a child is born and to us a son is given, *
and the government will be upon his shoulder.
And his name will be called:
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God; *
the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace *
there will be no end,
upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, *
to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.

From this time forth and for evermore; *
the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. ⁱⁱ

Morning Prayer continues with an Affirmation of Faith or the Litany.

A Song of God's Chosen One (Isaiah 11.1, 2, 3b-4a, 6, 9)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stock of Jesse, *
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, *
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might, *
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see, *
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, *
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, *
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid.
The calf, the lion and the fatling together, *
with a little child to lead them.
They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, *
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea. ⁱⁱⁱ

Morning Prayer continues with an Affirmation of Faith or the Litany.

Affirmation of Faith

Either The Apostles' Creed or the 'Hear, O Israel' may be said or sung.

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.** ^{iv}

Morning Prayer continues with the Litany.

Hear, O Israel

**Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.**

There is no commandment greater than these.

The following may be said or sung after 'Hear, O Israel'.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,
and write both these commandments in our hearts,
we beseech you.**

Morning Prayer continues with the Litany.

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Litany

The Litany is said or sung.

In joy and humility let us pray to the Creator of the universe, saying, "Hear us, O Lord, and grant us peace."

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord, **and grant us peace.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord, **and grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord, **and grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord, **and grant us peace.**

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord, **and grant us peace.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord, **and grant us peace.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord, **and grant us peace.**

Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. After a period of silence either the Collect of the Day or one of the following Collects may be said or sung.

Christmas I

God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**^v

Christmas II

Christ, our God, whom humble shepherds worshipped at a manger, you are holy and most high, merciful and mighty. Startle us to wakefulness, that we may rejoice in your new and glorious dawn, and, in your holy name, act to mend this suffering world. **Amen.**^{vi}

Christmas III

God, you spoke and your Word became flesh, breathing a new song of joy and praise into the world. Grant that we may bear the good news of your salvation, proclaiming your promise of peace to the ends of the earth. **Amen.**^{vii}

Morning Prayer continues with the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Morning Prayer continues with the Dismissal.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Dismissal

Let us bless the incarnate Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Morning Prayer may conclude with the following Sentence.

May Christ, by whose Incarnation earthly and heavenly things are gathered into one, fill us with his joy and peace. **Amen.**^{viii}

Note

All liturgical texts are taken from *The Book of Alternative Services* unless otherwise noted and may have been emended for more inclusive language.

ⁱ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006), 303.

ⁱⁱ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2000), 216.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2000), 577.

^{iv} *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006), 105.

^v *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 39.

^{vi} *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 40.

^{vii} *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 41.

^{viii} *The Book of Occasional Services* (2003), 23 alt.